

Child Care Assistance



Purpose

The Child Care Assistance (CCA) Program supports low-income families with working parents, parents gaining work skills, or parents going to school. In addition to paying for child care, this appropriation supports the regulation of child care providers and quality improvement activities.

Who Is Helped

Child Care Assistance provides financial assistance for children under the age of 13 in:

- Families whose parents are: (1) working at least 28 hours per week; or (2) in school full time; or (3) are working and in school for a combined minimum of 28 hours per week; and (4) have income below 145 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Families with children with special needs where parents are working or are in school full time with incomes up to 200 percent FPL.
- Families receiving Family Investment Program benefits and are participating in PROMISE JOBS (PJ).

Protective Child Care is available to children who have been abused or neglected.

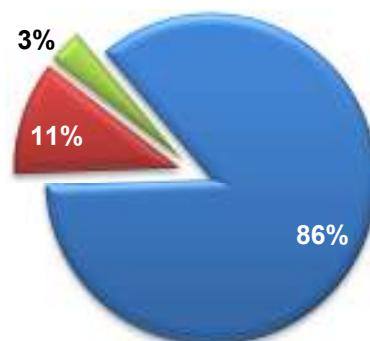
In SFY15, 38,681 children were served.

- A monthly average of 21,205 children received a child care service, a 6.3 percent decrease from SFY14.
- Caseloads for Child Care Assistance, PROMISE JOBS, and Protective Child Care are expected to decrease in SFY16. Caseloads for all three groups are expected to remain at SFY16 levels in SFY17.

The average CCA child is under age five, has one sibling, and lives in a one-parent family. The parent is working. The family income is below 100 percent of the FPL and therefore does not have a co-pay for services.

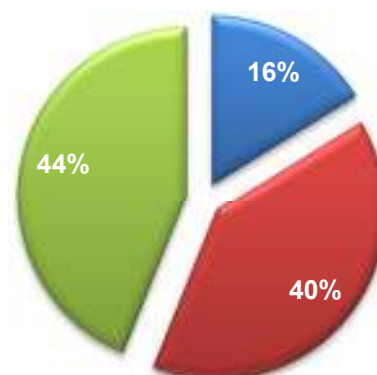
Number of Children Served SFY15

- CCA (86%)
- PROMISE JOBS (11%)
- Protective (3%)



Ages of Children Served SFY15

- Infant and Toddlers (16%)
- Preschool Age (40%)
- School Age (44%)



- ✓ *The 2015 Federal Poverty Level for a family of three is \$20,090. A family of three can earn up to \$29,136 annual gross wages and remain eligible for CCA.*
- ✓ *In SFY15, 94.7 percent of families needing child care were employed; this is no change from SFY14.*

Services

The Child Care Assistance program allows parents to choose their child care provider. Providers include:

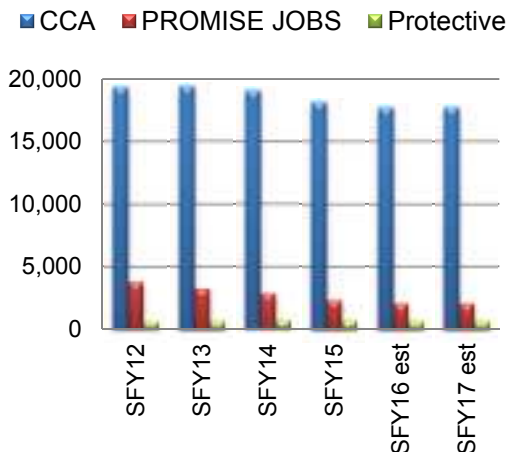
- 1,366 licensed child care centers.
- 3,397 registered child care development homes. In-home providers caring for six or more children at one time must register.
- 1,450 legally operating, non-registered providers who receive payment under the CCA program. Providers caring for five or fewer children at one time are not required to be regulated.

Activities other than child care assistance funded by this appropriation:

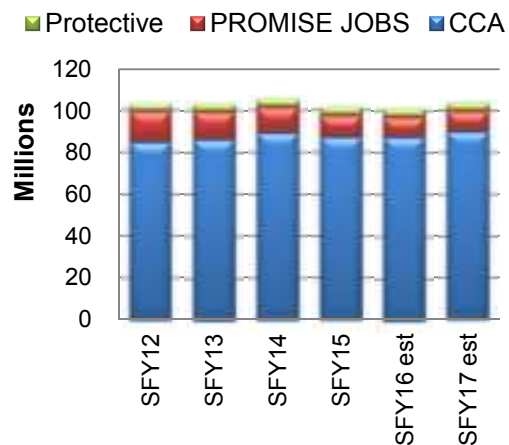
- The five Child Care Resource and Referral contracts and the 17 wraparound child care contracts. Both increase access to quality services/providers. Management and oversight of these contracts is performed by General Administration staff.
- The Quality Rating System (QRS) which identifies and promotes quality in child care services. The QRS is voluntary for providers. Management and oversight for this program is performed by General Administration staff.
- Regulatory activities which are carried out by Field Operations and General Administration staff.

In addition, Child Care Assistance and Protective Child Care eligibility and payment activities are performed by DHS Field Operations. PROMISE JOBS child care eligibility activities are performed by Iowa Work Force Development staff.

Average Monthly Number of Children Served



Expenditures By Type



- ✓ *More than 82 percent of child care bills are submitted electronically.*
- ✓ *100 percent of child care centers are visited annually.*
- ✓ *In working toward a target of monitoring 100% of child development homes, 84% had on-site visits last year.*

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Improve Iowans' Employment and Economic Security

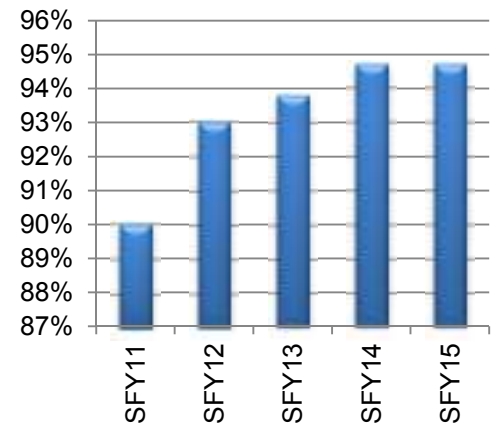
Strategies:

- Provide child care assistance to support working families.
- Promote the use of quality child care services.
- Ensure child care payments are made timely.

SFY15 Results

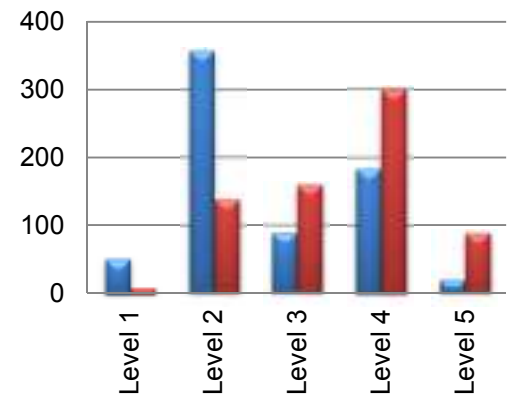
- 94.7 percent of families paid under CCA received assistance due to employment.
- 91 percent of children were cared for in regulated settings.
- 92 percent of all CCA expenditures were made to regulated providers.
- 99.7 percent of correctly submitted child care bills were paid within 10 days.

Percentage of CCA Families Employed



QRS Level Achieved June 2015

■ Child Development Homes (695 total)
■ Child Care Center (693 total)



- ✓ *The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, "Reauthorization", establishes significant new policy direction across the subsidy, regulatory, and quality improvement components of the child care system. Funding increases over five years are authorized. Actual appropriations and allocations for individual states remain unknown. Final revised CCDF rules are yet to be issued to provide states further detail on meeting these new requirements.*
- ✓ *Federal funding for CCDF is partially subject to annual sequestration reductions required under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25). The impact of future sequestration is unknown and has not been included in CCDF funding estimates.*

Legal Basis

Federal:

- Section 418 of Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, as amended
- Title VI of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
- Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant Act of 2014
- Code of Federal Regulations 45, Parts 98 and 99

State:

- Iowa Code, Chapters 237A and 256I